

**DANIELSON AND PUTNAM NEWS**

**DANIELSON**

**Court of Inquiry Investigating Alleged Liquor Sales in Plainfield—Two Republican Candidates for Judge of Probate—Tribute to the Late George W. Danielson.**

Deputy Judge James N. Tucker presided at a session of the town court Tuesday morning. John May, charged with intoxication, was sentenced to serve 30 days in Brooklyn, from where he had just been released.

W. E. Keach of the West Side is doing jury duty in the superior court at Putnam this week.

John F. Beryl of New Britain was a visitor with friends in Danielson Tuesday.

**Seriously Ill.**

Misses Nellie and Louise Fournier remain seriously ill at their home on the West Side.

Deputy Sheriff John M. Bassette was on duty in the superior court at Putnam Tuesday.

Rev. E. A. Legg is at Williamantic attending conferences.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Getty, who have been spending several days in Danielson, have returned to Worcester.

Members of the Pentecostal church held a prayer meeting at the home of George Miner on Academy street Tuesday evening.

**Rockville Rector to Preach.**

Rev. J. F. George of St. John's church, Rockville, is to preach the Lenten sermon at St. Alban's church Thursday evening.

There is to be a children's service at St. Alban's church this (Wednesday) evening.

A number of Danielson members of Putnam lodge of Elks will go to Williamantic next Monday evening for the institution of the lodge in Williamantic.

Men closely identified with banking interests in Danielson and vicinity say they know nothing of a plan for the opening of a bank in the Bradley building, as has been rumored for some time.

**Court of Inquiry in Plainfield.**

A court of inquiry was busy in the town of Plainfield, a no-license town this year, investigating Tuesday, as to the alleged sale of liquor in that town.

Great interest continued to be manifested this week in the mission being conducted by Lassalette missionary fathers for the French-speaking members of St. James parish.

The members of the Ladies' Benevolent society of the Congregational church are to have a meeting in the vestry this (Wednesday) afternoon.

**Movie Girl at the Bradley.**

At the Orpheum theater Tuesday evening Manager J. P. Lewis offered the Movie Girl, a musical show of some pretension, as the attraction and it was an entertaining production for the audience. Many were present from the surrounding towns.

**Interest in Trolley Express Extension.** Danielson business men are in many instances very much interested in the plan of the Norwich business men to see an extension of the trolley express service from that city through to Putnam. Such a service would be sure to increase the business of local houses with Norwich firms and would be a great accommodation to many individuals here.

**TWO CANDIDATES**

For Republican Nomination for Judge of Probate to Succeed Judge Getty.

Attorney W. Penner Woodward and Attorney Sabin S. Russell have announced that they are candidates for the republican nomination for judge of probate to succeed the late Judge Oliver E. Getty. Both are lawyers practicing in Danielson and both are very well and favorably known and have many friends in the community.

George W. Danielson, a native of Killingly, made a Great Paper of Providence Journal.

In a series of special articles, yesterday in Journalism, Edwin M. Bacon reviewed for a Boston paper the careers of some of the men who made their mark in the newspaper world in New England in the second half of the last century.

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**PUTNAM**

**Mrs. James P. Lawson of Woodstock, Again Arrested—Released Under \$2,000 Bonds—Pleads Not Guilty to Charge of Causing the Death of Her Husband, Aug. 14, 1913.**

Amanda U. Lawson, alias Larson was again arrested Tuesday morning by Deputy Sheriff Leonard H. Healey of Woodstock on a bench warrant signed by Judge M. A. Shumway on a charge of manslaughter preferred by State Attorney Charles E. Searis.

Mrs. Lawson, in a highly nervous state and in charge of Deputy Sheriff Healey and accompanied by a nurse, Miss Marion Avery of Woodstock, was immediately brought to Putnam and presented before Judge Shumway in the superior court, just before the beginning of the afternoon session.

Clerk E. M. Warner read the complaint, during which proceeding Mrs. Lawson was allowed to be seated. The reading was lengthy and as it progressed, Mrs. Lawson showed extreme nervousness and weakness. At times she quivered from head to foot and then shrinking into her chair, sat with her head buried in her hands.

At the suggestion of the state attorney the court fixed Mrs. Lawson's bonds at \$2,000. This was furnished during the day by Claus Nelson, a relative of Mrs. Lawson's, and she was released from custody.

The charge against Mrs. Lawson is in connection with the death of her husband, James P. Lawson, who on the night of August 14 of last year was found dead in his stable at East Woodstock, with his head battered and crushed.

September 27, 1913. Mrs. Lawson was arrested by State Police Officer Robert Hurley and was held at Brooklyn Jail until she was presented before a grand jury here on October 29, on a charge of murder. The grand jury did not find a true bill and Mrs. Lawson was immediately released from custody, returning to her home in Woodstock.

The murder of Lawson, who was a thrifty farmer of Woodstock, has always been surrounded with mystery. On the night that his body was found in the barn he was alone at the Lawson home with his wife, their children, a son and a daughter, being away for the time.

Mrs. Lawson said that she retired to her room early and heard no sound of a struggle down stairs. During the night she heard a horse in the stable and, going out to investigate, found the horse loose and the body of her husband lying on the floor. Neighbors were summoned by Mr. Lawson.

Coroner A. G. Bill investigated the case and in finding set forth that Mr. Lawson had been murdered. Mrs. Lawson, who suffered a collapse after the tragedy, was not arrested and charged with the crime until more than a month after her husband's death. She always maintained her innocence.

Coroner Bill through his investigation of the death of Lawson decided that the murdered man's body had been dragged from the cellar of the house to the barn. The man's head was crushed in the left side as if by blows from a club or an axe, and in the complaint read to Mrs. Lawson in court Tuesday the claim is again made that the murderous assault on Lawson was made with a club, an axe or some other instrument the nature of which is not known.

The state police have been working on the case and following clues for many weeks past, so the re-arrest did not cause surprise in some quarters, though it did in others.

**OBITUARY.**

**Robert Sutton.** Robert Sutton, 55, died Tuesday at the town farm. Superintendent George Shippee said he knew very little about Sutton. He had been at the farm for about two years he said, but never said anything about relatives, his home or his occupation when at work. He was in poor health all through his stay at the institution and had been very sick for more than two weeks. The body was given in charge of Undertaker L. E. Smith.

**WEDDING.**

**Wood-Breed.** Miss Lucetta Porter Breed and James Orville Wood, principal of a school at Wood's Hole were married at Mapleville, R. I., Tuesday afternoon

**CHARGE OF NEGLIGENCE.**

**Father of Joseph G. Bernier Brings Suit Against Woodstock Agricultural Society—Tuesday's Testimony.**

In the superior court here Tuesday, Judge Milton A. Shumway presiding, the trial of the case of Joseph George Bernier vs. the Woodstock Agricultural Society was commenced. This is an action in which the father of Joseph George Bernier is suing the society for damages as the result of an accident in which his boy was killed when carried up, entangled in the ropes, by a balloon at Woodstock fair on September 16, 1913.

The widespread interest in the case among citizens in Woodstock and other towns in this section of the county was indicated by the number that came out on the first day of the trial, the court room being well filled in the morning and crowded to capacity at the afternoon session.

**Special Panel of Jurors.** A special panel of jurors in addition to those regularly drawn had been summoned for the case and responded to their names when called by the clerk. Many were excused from serving, some on account of being members of the Agricultural society, some for having formed opinions and account of illness and several others were challenged. This option being exercised by the plaintiffs and defendant society's counsel.

Attorney E. C. Morse assisted by Attorney Eric H. Johnson appears for the plaintiff. Attorney Charles L. Torrey assisted by Attorney Charles L. Torrey for the society.

The jury is made up of the following: James F. Twomey, F. W. Gerwick, Alexander Sausett, W. E. Keach, C. A. Walker, Wendell H. Warder, Elmer O. Mathewson, E. M. Allen, Walter Vaughn, Edwin E. Latham.

After the jury had been completed Judge Shumway excused for the remainder of this term of court the members of the special panel of jurors called for service through the drawing of last Friday.

**Allegations in the Complaint.** In the complaint read in court at the opening of the case Attorney Morse set out the facts of the case as follows: That the Woodstock Agricultural society being organized by the plaintiffs for spectators to view the balloon ascension that resulted in the death of young Bernier and that the society was negligent in not having provided barriers to keep the public at a safe distance from the balloon; that the balloon ascended at the fair and was not sufficient to properly safeguard the public and that spectators were allowed to assist the aeronaut in preparing for ascensions.

**Pomfret Witness Called.** Royal G. Bosworth of Pomfret Center was the first witness called by the plaintiff. Mr. Bosworth said he saw the balloon ascend at the fair and was close around the balloon during all of the time that it was being filled. He described in detail the arrangement of poles at each side of the balloon,

**how the big bag was attached to the poles by guy ropes, and how other sets of ropes, around the big envelope, were attached to it by snags and allowed to trail, and for the purpose of hanging on to it while it was being filled. Mr. Bosworth said he saw no barriers erected for the purpose of keeping the crowds back from the balloon, around which many crowded. Two men were in charge of the preparations for the ascension, he said. The balloon, he stated, was being held down by boys holding to the ropes hitched to the big bag by snags. The loose ends of these lines lay in coils on the ground. One of the balloon men asked for persons in the crowd to give a hand in holding down the big bag, witness said. He said he did not see any that respond to this request, only boys, ages varying from 10 years upwards.**

**As the warning cry "Look out!" was given, Bosworth said he saw several ends of rope on the ground, the other ends attached to the balloon. He saw young Bernier carried up into the air by the ropes, and saw him, with one of the ropes twisted around his left leg. Bosworth said he was not more than 10 feet away from the boy when young Bernier was swept off his feet and carried aloft. When he first noted the boy in the air George was struggling to get a hold of a rope with his hand. Bosworth said that he heard one of the balloon men command those who were holding on to the balloon not to wrap the ropes around their hands, just before the balloon went up.**

**Boy's Mother Testifies.** Mrs. Joseph G. Bernier, mother of the boy that was killed, testified that George was 12 years and 5 months of age when he was killed. She gave his weight as between 70 and 80 pounds. He was an average boy and bright. Attorney Searis asked only a few questions of Mrs. Bernier on cross examination.

**Frank Bernier, a cousin of the victim of the accident, testified that he went to the fair from Mechanicsville with George. He was not with him when the accident occurred, but saw the body a few minutes afterwards and again when it was stripped at undertaking rooms in this city, the morning. He described how the body appeared and told of rope marks diagonally around the left leg and below the knee and in the palms of the hands. There were no such marks on the wrists, he said. The marks had something the appearance of burns.**

After Bernier's testimony had been taken, Judge Shumway declared a recess until 1:30.

**Snapshot of Balloon as Evidence.** Olin C. Fuller, Putnam, an amateur photographer, was the first witness to testify after the recess. He told of seeing a snapshot of the balloon as it swept northward and upward with young Bernier entangled in the ropes. A copy of the picture was laid in as evidence. It shows the boy caught by the leg and, apparently, trying to grasp a rope with his hands. Fuller said that he thought the balloon was about 300 feet in the air when he got the picture. He was not subjected to cross examination.

**Was With Bernier Boy.** John Jandreau, Oxford, Mass., stated that he was with young Bernier, and supposed to be in charge of him, when the accident occurred. The boy's mother was not at the fair, he said. That one of the balloon men had called "Come, boys, hold the ropes." Also that he said "Don't wind the ropes around your hands." Jandreau said that he would swear that George went to the ropes and stepped back when the signal to do so was given. He said George was caught by the left leg by one of the writhing ropes on the

**ground, thrown down and then hauled struggling into the air.**

**Cross examined by Attorney Searis, Jandreau denied that he had said right after the accident that George had told him a few minutes before that he "was going to get hold of one of the ropes and take a little ride."**

**Frank P. Anderson, Putnam, an undertaker's assistant, said he saw the body almost immediately after the life expired. He described the hands as having marks like burns in the palms and two similar looking marks on the left leg. He was not questioned by counsel for the defense.**

**Earl Johnson and Fred Dupre, both of North Greenfield, as witnesses, told of seeing Bernier dragged away by the balloon, near which they had been standing. Johnson said there were no barriers to keep the crowds back; also that he was asked to take hold of a rope on the balloon.**

**Royal G. Bosworth was recalled by the plaintiff and asked some questions relative to the balloon's position at the first part of the flight.**

**Theodore Rondeau, Omer Blanchette, Clarence Young, all of Putnam, told of what was being done when the balloon was being filled. Some of them were asked to hold ropes of the balloon. Joseph Garglin, 17, Putnam, testified that a rope became entangled about his leg as the balloon went up, but he managed to free himself. The plaintiff rested.**

**Witness for Defense.** The first witness for the defendant was Harold Barrett of West Woodstock. He saw boys holding to the ropes of the balloon and heard one of the balloon men order them away. He said Barrett told him he was going to hold a rope until the balloon went up 200 feet or so and then drop off. He said that a balloon man ordered Bernier away but the boy afterwards killed returned and the man came back and said: "You, keep away from here!" He saw Bernier swept into the air with ropes twisted about his hand and left leg.

**Ropes Had Been Put Under Balloon.** Ellmer McEllan, Woodstock, said he saw the balloon man go around the legs of the ropes, before the ascension, and throw the ends of the ropes under the balloon so that they would be out of the way. After they had been put away, boys came back and pulled them out. He saw Bernier go up with the balloon. Asked by Attorney Morse if he were an expert on aeronautics, the witness said no, but that he had seen several and had made some ascensions. Florence Darling and Rita Champagne, Putnam girls, testified that an order was given to get back from the ropes. They also saw the ends of the ropes taken out of the way and tucked under the balloon. Harold Pike, 13, Woodstock, said he had told young Bernier to let go of the ropes and that George had laughed at him.

**Frank Ramsdell, Thomaston, the last witness of the day, said that the balloon men had ordered the people back. Court adjourned until this (Wednesday) morning.**

**Brief Local Notes.** Attorney Robert G. Perry of New York is visiting with relatives in Putnam.

George M. Pine was in Boston on a business trip Tuesday.

The city is investigating as to the merits of various street sweeping machines, with a view to purchasing one for use on the new pavements in the business section.

Miss Maude Simpson, pianist at the Bradley theatre, has won such recognition by her playing and interpreting of music for acts that come to the house that she has recently received offers of fine positions as a musician and with them tributes from many pro-

**Professional people for whom she has played.**

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